



SAINT SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝ



Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral Family Center Project Summary

Background

On Nov 10, 2002 the Saint Spyridon Cathedral General Assembly approved a motion to allocate \$2,000 from the Bellos Memorial Fund to underwrite a community fundraising event. The purpose of the event being to raise money for the payment of a feasibility study and development of an architectural plan for a future community center located on church owned property. In May 2004 that event, Worcester's First Mediterranean Wine Fest was held with all proceeds going towards the building of a Youth Community Center.

In July of 2004 Charles and Helen Kotseas provided an unsolicited generous donation with potential value of over \$1,000,000.00 to spearhead a facility getting built. The Parish Council President immediately established a Building Committee to oversee the Youth Center project.

On Sept 26, 2004 a Special General Assembly for the Youth Center took place. The General Assembly approved motions renaming the proposed facility to a Family Center, establishing a Family Center Building Fund, and appropriating funds for the hiring of an Architect.

In November 2004, after a rigorous RFP review process BeeryRio Architecture and Interiors of Springfield VA was chosen by the Building Committee as the firm to develop the comprehensive Design/Master Plan for the Family Center project. The vision for the project established by the Building Committee was to create a state-of-the-art educational, recreational and spiritual family center for the Orthodox community in central Massachusetts. To meet the project vision BeeryRio and the Building Committee evaluated the existing operation and use of the Cathedral and then researched the Cathedral's needs going forward into the future.

Design / Master Plan Development

Survey

In December of 2004, a Family Center Survey was mailed to the Saint Spyridon Cathedral parishioners. The survey results ranked highest to lowest were as follows: Gymnasium, Upgrade/Improve existing facilities, Organization Meeting Rooms, Banquet Hall/ Auditorium, Locker Rooms w/Showers, Increase Parking Spaces, Conference/Meeting rooms, Library / Media Room(s), Expanded Pre-School/Day Care, Strength Training Room, Aerobic Fitness Room, Senior Day Care, Café (Kafénio), Parochial Charter School, Assisted Living / Elder Care, Bookstore, Amphitheater, Swimming Pool, and Chapel.

Ministries

BeeryRio and the Building Committee met with representatives from all the Ministries of the Cathedral to determine how they currently operate and to review their respective spatial needs now and in the future. Representatives from the following Ministries were interviewed; Clergy, Parish Office Staff, Building Committee, Parish Council, Sunday School, GOYA, Little Angels, Dance Group, JOYYAL, Greek School, Philoptocos, Seniors, AHEPA, Choir, Altar Boys, Special Events Committee, Festival Committee, and Easter Procession.

Building Requirements

In January 2005 BeeryRio tasked the Building Committee to develop a prioritized list of the spaces to be included in the final design. The Building Committee provided the following prioritized list to BeeryRio; Hall / Banquet Facility, Kitchen, Office Space, Processing Room, Classrooms, Meeting Room(s), Library/Bookstore, Orthodox Food Pantry, Gymnasium with locker/shower rooms, Weight Training/Cardio Room, Aerobic/Dance Room, Lounge Area/Café, and Lecture Room.

Design Presentations

In February 2005 BeeryRio presented five design plans for the Building Committee to review. The Building Committee requested in-depth drawings for four of the designs. On March 12, 2005 BeeryRio presented their four in-depth designs; advantages and disadvantages for each design were discussed. Through the course of the review one design choice, the Radial Design plan continued to come to the forefront.

THE RADIAL DESIGN PLAN

The focal point of the Radial Design utilizes the Dome of the Cathedral as the nucleus around which the Family Center would be designed. The Radial Design plan offered a combination of aspects which no other plan fully met; aesthetic beauty, functionality, centralization, maintainability, and expandability. The recommended final schematic design encompasses three levels.

Ground Floor

Entry from the parking lot to the Cathedral is through an ascending curved atrium overlooking a garden courtyard on the left and an expanded office area and meeting rooms to the right. The next processional ring encompasses a cafe and an expanded kitchen. Adjacent to this area is a 400 seat banquet hall overlooking Elm Park. Four classrooms are positioned on the Cedar St side of the auditorium separated by a hallway. A dedicated space and entrance for The Orthodox Food Pantry is on this level at Cedar Street.

Lower Floor

Below the ground floor are a gymnasium and fitness rooms for aerobics, weight training, and dance. It will include locker, shower, and sauna facilities and have a separate entrance.

Upper Floor

Above the ground floor classrooms and kitchen area are five additional classrooms and a large lecture hall. The ceiling height of the banquet hall would rise to this second level.

Parking

The Cedar Street lot would be paved and lined for parking. Total parking for both parking sites would allow for 150 vehicles.